

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a spilled material from a spillage area
2 comprising:
 - 3 a deformable substrate member having deposited on the surface thereof a coating of a
4 material having a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 1 2. The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.
- 1 3. The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member with said
2 coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated members taken
3 from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted filaments, metal
4 powders and particle sponges.
- 1 4. The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member with said
2 coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal members
3 in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper, zinc and
4 silver.
- 1 5. The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a high affinity for
2 said spilled material is gold.
- 1 6. In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate absorber
2 member for the spilled material,
3 the improvement comprising:

4 a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of
5 particles and a filamentary arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated
6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 7. The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 8. The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity for said
2 spilled material is gold.

1 9. The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable absorber are
2 of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least one braid of
2 copper wires.

1 11. In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage location,
2 the improvement comprising:

3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that
4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 12. The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member is at least
2 one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart a wicking
3 capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

1 13. The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber member is at least
2 one braid of woven copper wires.

1 14. The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber member is
2 contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.

1 15. The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is mercury and said
2 elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold